



THE DAILY WATCH



A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER PROVIDED BY

THE COMMUNITY LIAISON UNIT OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOSTS SEMINAR TO DISCUSS NEW WAYS TO COMBAT METH PRODUCTION

What: Anhydrous Ammonia Meth Seminar

When: Monday, March 29, 2004

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Sedgwick County Extension Office
7101 W. 21st N.

Because of the ever increasing anhydrous ammonia thefts, which are a result of the continued and growing production of the drug methamphetamine, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a seminar to educate area farmers and Law Enforcement on how to thwart the efforts of the drug dealers who need anhydrous ammonia and on how to deal with the hazards that can occur as a result of these thefts. Two guest speakers will talk to those in attendance regarding these concerns.

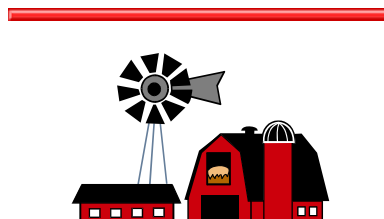
Scott Teeselink, a former undercover narcotics agent and retired special agent with the KBI, will speak on anhydrous safety and how to recognize a meth lab.

Ed Beaman, the president and CEO of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa and lead consultant to IFDC & PRAGMA Corp. in Central Asia, will speak on the development of a new compound which when added to anhydrous ammonia reduces the yield to less than 10% after final production. Beaman will also talk about how the additive is added, anticipated cost, and about the tax credit bill he is trying to get passed that will help retailers if they purchase

locks, additives, lighting and/or fencing to help secure the anhydrous ammonia tanks.

Sponsored by:

- Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
- Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Agricultural Assoc.
- Sedgwick County Extension Office
- Kansas State University Research and Extension Office



ANHYDROUS AMMONIA THEFT...WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Agriculture depends on anhydrous ammonia as one of the major sources of nitrogen fertilizer for production of corn and other crops. However, a new threat has emerged – the theft of anhydrous ammonia for use in making a powerful narcotic called methamphetamine. The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office wants to play a central role in preventing drug abuse in the future. By raising awareness about the potential for anhydrous theft, both farmers and fertilizer dealers can assist law enforcement in combating this illicit use of a product important to the Midwest HIDTA agriculture.



What is anhydrous ammonia?

Anhydrous ammonia is one of several nitrogen-based fertilizer products. It is a basic building block in the

manufacture of other types of nitrogen fertilizer and also is applied to farmland as a fertilizer.



Methamphetamine? What is it?

Methamphetamine, or meth, is a powerful central nervous system stimulant with a high potential for abuse and dependence. Meth dealers produce it illegally and sell it in pill form, powder and chunks. One simple recipe for making meth requires anhydrous ammonia as a precursor chemical. The drug can be made in a makeshift "lab", which is small enough to be stored in a suitcase. Moreover, only small amounts of ammonia are required.



How do I know if I have had anhydrous ammonia stolen?

- Has the ground been disturbed around the tanks? Look for fresh tracks in mud or snow.
- Are tank valves closed tightly? Sometimes a valve works loose, but sometimes it's the result of tampering.
- Look for suspicious items left near the tanks such as duct tape, garden hose, bicycle inner tubes, buckets, and coolers. If frightened or surprised, thieves will leave these materials behind.
- Check for broken or missing wire tires or seals that you have placed on valve wheels as a marker.



What should I do if I see signs of anhydrous theft?

Do not disturb the crime scene and immediately contact the Sheriff's Office.



What should I do if I see suspicious individuals or activity near anhydrous tanks?

DO NOT APPROACH or CONFRONT these individuals...call 911. Thieves may be under the influence of methamphetamine and may become dangerously violent.



What practical steps can I take to deter the theft of anhydrous ammonia at the farm?

- Deliver tanks to farms as close to the time of actual application as possible. Anhydrous nurse tanks left unattended for extended periods are an invitation to would-be thieves.
- Position delivered tanks in open areas where they may be seen from the roadway. By placing tanks in open areas where they may be observed by passing motorists and law enforcement personnel, would-be thieves are at a disadvantage.
- Encourage producers to return tanks immediately after use.
- Discourage temporary storage of nurse tanks and tool bars inside buildings or near farmhouses or livestock confinements.
- Encourage producers to relieve pressure with the bleed valve and then remove hoses between tool bars and nurse tanks when left in the field overnight.
- Inspect each nurse tank upon delivery and return for signs of tampering.



What are some practical steps I can take to deter the theft of anhydrous ammonia at the fertilizer dealership?

- Make your employees and customers aware of the theft problem.
- Store nurse tanks in well-lit areas.
- Store tanks with flow valves facing towards the drive lane to speed fertilizer dealer's visual inspection of area.

- Inspect tanks each morning. This includes weekends, when many anhydrous thefts occur.
- Remove hoses and store them separately during the off-season. One hose contains enough anhydrous to make meth.
- Block the fertilizer dealership to complicate the physical theft of a tank.
- Place brightly colored plastic wire ties or seals between the valve wheel and the roll cage to ease visual checks.
- Keep accurate records and perform frequent inventory checks. Track stored nurse tanks by identification number and estimate the amount of remaining product.
- Work with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office personnel on security precautions and encourage frequent nighttime patrols.
- Be suspicious of those attempting to buy anhydrous who do not have a legitimate need for the product. If strangers attempt to purchase anhydrous note their physical description and the vehicle they are using. Contact your local law enforcement agency.

By raising awareness and taking some easy, common sense steps, we can deter the theft of anhydrous ammonia for illicit purposes. This will help protect its future safe, legal, and intended use.

(This information was obtained through Midwest HIDTA Initiatives).



**HAS OFFICIALLY
ARRIVED!**



"CODE BLACK"

**TAKE THE CHALLENGE
IN "2004"**

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office along with Andale High School, Sedgwick County Safe Communities and Davis Moore Auto Group will be hosting a workshop to educate youth on the dangers of underage drinking. High school students from all over Sedgwick County have been invited to attend the workshop. The featured speaker, Jack Church, from West, Texas, will share his heart-wrenching story of losing his son to drinking and driving. The workshop will be held on [Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at Andale High School, 700 West Rush, Andale, KS from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.](#)



**APRIL IS ALCOHOL
AWARENESS MONTH**

Since 1987, April has been recognized as Alcohol Awareness Month. Sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), it encourages communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

A primary focus of Alcohol Awareness Month during the past 10 years has been underage drinking and the devastating effects it can have on our youth.

An integral part of Alcohol Awareness Month is Alcohol-Free Weekend (April 2-4, 2004), celebrated the first weekend in April. Kansans are encouraged to engage in three alcohol-free days to raise public awareness about the use of alcohol and how it may affect individuals, families and businesses.



Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office Receives New Grant for "Party Patrols"

Underage drinking is considered a significant problem in the Wichita/Sedgwick County area, and is even more prominent towards the end of the school year when spring break, proms and graduations occur. Drinking parties are creating more problems with underage drunk drivers and other juvenile alcohol related incidents.

Through a grant, provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation, Bureau of Traffic Safety, we will be stepping up enforcement known as "Party Patrols" as a tool to locate these juvenile alcohol parties and shut them down before anyone can leave and create more serious problems.

On March 19, 2004, between the hours of 10:00 pm and 2:00 am the "Party Patrol" conducted the first saturation in Sedgwick County.

During the first saturation, a total of seventy-two (72) juveniles were contacted, which resulted in six (6) citations for consumption of an alcoholic beverage by a minor, three (3) citations for possession of an alcoholic beverage by a minor, two (2) citations for furnishing an alcoholic beverage to a minor, twenty-eight (28) traffic stops, twenty-eight (28) traffic citations, and one (1) arrest for possession of an alcoholic beverage by a minor. There were one hundred seventy-five (175) containers of alcohol also found.

The next "Party Patrol" will occur on April 17, 2004.



Facts About Underage Drinking in the U.S.A.

● More than five million high school age kids binge drink at least once a month.

● The gender gap in alcohol consumption that for generations separated girls and boys has disappeared among younger teens: male and female ninth graders are just as likely to drink (40 percent vs. 41 percent) and to binge drink (22 percent vs. 20 percent).

● 83 percent of adults who drink had their first drink of alcohol before age 21.

● Individuals who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcohol dependent than those who begin drinking at age 21.

● The prevalence of lifetime alcohol abuse is greatest for those who begin drinking at age 14.

● One third of sixth and ninth graders obtain alcohol from their own homes.

● Children cite other people's homes as the most common setting for drinking.

● Four out of every five (80%) students have consumed alcohol (more than a few sips) by the end of high school.

● Two-thirds of twelfth graders report having been drunk.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Just a friendly reminder that daylight savings time begins Sunday, April 4, 2004. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour.

Also, many fire departments encourage people to change the battery in the smoke detector when they change their clocks, because it can be so easy to forget otherwise. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but one-third is estimated to have worn-out or missing batteries.

If you have questions about any of the articles printed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact the Community Liaison Unit at **383-7184**.

Sergeant Gary Farthing
Deputy Kelvin Hicks
Deputy Daniel Jones
Deputy Jeremy Jameson
Deputy Wayne Ruffner
Office Specialist Rhonda Ricker

www.sedgwickcounty.org/sheriff



Easter has a way of
making things look
brighter...Filling us
with joy and love
Making each heart
lighter...

May your world ring
out with the sound of
laughter,

May the heart be filled
with love ever after...

May every step you
take be the right,
**May your days be
blessed bright!**

